

A

## REVIEW

OF THE

## STATE

OF THE

## BRITISH NATION.

---

 Thursday, July 1. 1708.
 

---

I Am talking of our present Expectations of Victory, or our Dependence upon the Event of the War; and really, Gentlemen, I cannot but wonder at your Impatience, I know you are as unwilling as can be, to let GOD Almighty have any thing to do in your Affairs, and indeed could you help it, I don't know, but *speaking MEERLY POLITICALLY*, you were in the right of it, for respecting your selves, you have very little Reason to expect him on your side—I am only loth to prove this too plainly, lest I should enter into the long Discourse of our Contempt of the Measures Providence has taken to convince us of his Concern for us, such as blinding our Enemies, that they could not

find the Way to *Edinburgh* Firth, tho' the Mouth of it is near 20 Mile wide, infatuating them, that they could not land afterward, when the *English* Fleet being landlock'd in *Leith* Road could have done them no Harm, and intimidating them, that they can make no new Attempt, tho' the Diversion might have been as easie and as significant as before, and the like.

But, tho' you are willing to disown the *Hand of the Supreme* in things past, yet he forces you daily to acknowledge him in things to come, and this in nothing more than in your confessed Ignorance of Events, and Impatience in the Expectation: No sooner are you in the Field, but Battle must follow; Victory is as sure to you upon a Battle, as Hunger

Hunger is the Effect of Fasting ; and if this does not all jump upon your Expectation, what then ? Then curse your Generals, rail at Managers, abuse the Ministry, and reproach the Government ; and what's the Original of all this ? The *Deceptio Visus* is all your own, it all begins in having wrong Accounts of Things publish'd — All the Winter during, your printed Papers bestow their Time in magnifying our own Preparations, and lessening those of the Enemy.

Our Levies every where are said to go on with Success, and Men come in a pace, and the Regiments will soon be compleat ; and yet when the Campaign begins, the Recruits in several Places are not arriv'd till *Midsummer*, sometimes after the Campaign is over, as at *Tboulon* — Again, the Enemies Levies go on ill, Men are not to be found, or Money is so scarce, they run away as fast as they get them, or the Officers represent they cannot raise their Men for Want of Levy-Money, and a hundred such Excuses ; and yet the Enemies Recruits are always in Time, and when you come into the Field, they want no Numbers, and always are superiour.

Well, our next Vaunt is the Goodness of our Troops, the Fulness of our Battalions, the Fineness of their Appearance, their Horses, their Equipage, &c. and the French are all Boys, can get no Horses, and their Battalions are thin ; and yet when they come into the Field, they tell us, their Horse are very fine, but their Foot not so well ; all the first Ranks of their Horse are Officers, their Infantry trebble officer'd, and the like ; all these things I can quote you Authors for.

I could run this an to Particulars ; what long Stories have we had told us of the Dyet at *Ratisbonne*, and his Highness the Elector of *Hannover* ; What Letters they have wrote to the several Circles and Princes about their Contingents and Quota's ; and those that would not furnish them were to be forced by Military Execution, and that upon this occasion it was not doubted, but the Army on the *Rhine* would be compleat, and be early in the Field, time enough

to disappoint the Designs of the French, and the Military Chest would be full. Now when we are at the middle of June, truly, the Money for the Military Chest is not yet come in, the Circles are backward ; and for the Princes, the small Ones comply, but for the great Ones they are too big to be forced ; and so tho' the Elector of *Hannover* is arriv'd at *Frankfort*, yet the French are on the other side the *Rhine*, consuming the Forrage, and the Germans not ready to take the Field.

I could go on to *Portugal*, to *Savoy*, to *Bavaria*, to *Naples*, to *Hungary* ; how often was the Governour of *Naples* to invade *Sicily*, the Duke of *Savoy* to invade *Dauphiné*, and penetrate to the Gates of *Lyons*, the *Danes* to make up the Army in *Hungary*, and the King of *Spain* be put in a Posture to act defensively ? — But when things come to be executed, the Governour of *Naples* has a mutinous People to curb, and cannot spare Troops for the Conquest of *Sicily*, and the French have reinforced their Governour there, and supply'd his Magazines, before Sir *John Leake* can get up the *Streights* ; the Duke of *Savoy* cannot march, because the Germans are not come up ; the *Danes* in *Bavaria* will not march till 80000 *Florins* are paid them, that is in English, cannot march for Want of Money, for the *Danes* have always been forward enough in Service, if supply'd with Necessaries ; the *Palatines* cannot march for Want of the *Upper Palatinate*, and in short, all things have their Difficulties ; which we conquer in Words, before the Course of Things can bring it to pass, and then behold a Disappointment !

But shall I note one thing ? We are buoy'd up in the Schemes of News-Papers and Foreign Accounts, to expect things sooner than they can be got ready, and tho' they may (I will not say they do) come as soon as we ought to expect them, yet if they do not come as soon as we do expect them, then we are disappointed and baulk'd ; and the next thing is Clamour and Rallery, as before ; of which more hereafter.



## MISCELLANEA.

**O**UR Madman having upbraided us, and that but too justly, with not being so thankful as our Neighbours, has desired us to present you with the Act of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland for a National Thanksgiving, on Account of their Deliverance from the French Invasion—Where you may not see, what what Example the Church of Scotland has set you, but may learn a little also, what you had to be thankful for in that Deliverance; whether you will follow the Example or no, is left to your Determination.

**ACT of the General Assembly  
of the Church of SCOTLAND,  
concerning a Solemn National  
Thanksgiving.**

*At Edinburgh the Twenty Fourth Day of  
April, One Thousand Seven Hundred and  
Eight Years.*

**T**HE General Assembly of this National Church, considering what a surprising Deliverance the Gracious G O D has been pleased in His infinite Goodness to bestow upon Us, in this Land in particular, from a threatened Invasion of cruel Enemies, whereby according to the unchangeable course of Poverty and Tyranny, by which this Invasion was managed, we were inevitably to lay our account, not only with the scattering of our Families, and spoiling of our Goods; But also the violent Invading of our Persons and Consciences, by methods of Cruelty worse than Fire and Fagot, as the known Massackers of Paris, in the Year one thousand five hundred seventy two, and of the Protestants in Ireland, in the Year one thousand six hundred forty one, and the continued Cruelties used against the Protestants in France, especially since the Year one thousand six hundred eighty five, can testify and witness to the World; And that G O D did thus graciously appear for us when we were unworthy of the least kind regard from Him, being a People laden with Iniquity, and that have not rendered unto G O D according to His Benefits, We, from a dutiful Sense of this signal Care, and seasonable Appearance of Divine Providence for this Church and Nation, cannot but look upon it as our Duty, to lift up our Souls in

Blessing the G O D of our Salvation for this and all his other Wonders of Mercy, that He hath wrought for this Church and Nation, and to call all Persons in this National Church, to give to the Infinitely Wise G O D the Glory of His free Goodness, taking Shame and Confusion of Face to our selves, because of our highly aggravated Iniquities, and searching and trying our Ways, and turning again to the L O R D from whom we have deeply revolted, Repentance, Reformation, and shewing Mercy to the Poor, being the best Evidences of thankfulness for the great mercies of the Infinitely Holy G O D, and the only way to secure a continuance of our Blessings. The General Assembly doth likewise call, and seriously exhort all Persons of this Church, to join with their Thanksgiving, earnest Prayers to G O D, That he would turn us to Himself in His dear Son our only Propitiation, and to one another in Ways of Truth, Justice, and Holiness, That He would bless and preserve our gracious Queen, in whose Life under him our Peace and Safety are so much bound up, That He would graciously direct all her Councils, and give such Success to her Arms, and those of her Allies by Sea and Land against the common Enemy, as shall through His Blessing bring these desolating Wars to an end, that shall be for His own Glory, and the Comfort and Joy of all sincere Lovers of Truth and Righteousness: That he would preserve His Gospel to us in its Purity, while Sun and Moon endure; That he would compassionate our distressed Protestants Brethren abroad, and deliver them from the Oppression of their cruel Enemies; That G O D would assist the Ministers and other Members of this Church, and Judicatories thereof, to acquit themselves so faithfully to G O D, and dutifully towards her Majesties Person and Government, as may more and more engage her Majesty to be Propitious and Favourable to this Church in its Worshipping, Discipline and Government, and give all Encouragement to the orderly Exercise thereof in its several Judicatories: That He would in His Compassion give seasonable Weather, and Crown the Year with his Mercy: And above all, That He would give us Grace to fear Him and His Goodness, inclining our Hearts to obey His Voice, that He may not be provoked to turn and do us hurt after all the great Good He hath done us: And the General Assembly appoints the said Thanksgiving to be observed in all the Parishes within this National Church, upon the first Thursday of June next, being the third Day of that Month.

Signed in Name, and at the Appointment  
of the General Assembly, By  
W. CARSTARES, Moderator.  
Jo. Dundas, Clk. Eccl. Scot.

The